GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2168
ANSWERED ON:06.08.2001
THREAT TO WILDLIFE DUE TO ILLEGAL MINING
BHUPENDRASINH PRABHATSINH SOLANKI

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether illegal mining of sand in various parts of the country causing serious damage to the wildlife including tigers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are contemplating to take any steps to check it; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R.BAALU)

(a)&(b) According to section 29 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, only such activities can be carried out in national parks and sanctuaries which are for the betterment of wildlife. Mining is not one of such activities. However, one case of grant of mining lease by Madhya Pradesh Government in National Chambal Sanctuaryhas come to the notice of Central Government. Collection of sand from within national parks and sanctuaries not only creates undue disturbance to the wild animals, but also affects the hydrology of the area. It has even adverse impact on the underground water. Removal of sand from river accelerates the flow of water, as a result of which rivers are dry during lean months. Such a situation has an adverse impact on wildlife including tiger.

(c)&(d) The Ministry does not approve any proposal for mining of sand from any areas forming parts of national parks and sanctuaries. State Government has been requested to comply with the provisions of the Act.